

THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE SEVEN KINGS

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sprang up with a flash. What had happened? Had Fietta managed to get in by means of the window? I had noticed the balcony outside the window on the previous night. The balcony of the next room was but a few feet distant from mine. It would be easy for any one to enter there, spring from one balcony to the other, and so obtain access to my room. Doubtless this had been done. Why had I slept? I had firmly resolved to stay awake all night. In an instant I had found the solution. Fietta's letter had been a trap. The envelope which he sent me contained a poison on the gum. I had licked it, and so received the fatal soporific. My heart beat wildly. I knew I had not an instant to lose. With hasty strides I went to Fietta's sitting room; there was no one there; in his bedroom, the door of which was open; it was also empty. I rushed into the hall.

"The gentleman and the little boy went out about half an hour ago," said the concierge, in answer to my inquiries. "They have gone to Vesuvius—a fine day for the trip." The man smiled as he spoke.

My heart almost stopped. "How did they go?" I asked. "A carriage, two horses—best way to go."

In a second I was out in the Piazza del Municipio. Hastily selecting a pair-horse carriage out of the group of importunate drivers, I jumped in. "Vesuvius," I shouted, "as hard as you can go."

The man began to bargain. I thrust a roll of paper money into his hand. On receiving it he wailed no longer, and we were soon dashing at a furious speed along the crowded ill-paved streets, scattering the pedestrians as we went. Down the Via Roma, and out on to the Santa Lucia Quay, away and away through endless labyrinthine streets, narrow streets, till at length we got out into the more open country, at the base of the burning mountain. Should I be in time to prevent the catastrophe which I dreaded? For I had been up that mountain before, and knew well the horrible danger at the crater's mouth—a slip, a push, and one would never be seen again.

The ascent began, and the exhausted horses were beginning to fail. I leaped out, and giving the driver a sum which I did not wait to count, ran up the winding road of cinders and pumice that curves round beneath the observatory. My breath had failed me, and my heart was beating so hard that I could scarcely speak when I reached the station where one takes ponies to go over the new, rough lava. In answer to my inquiries, Cook's agent told me that Fietta and Cecil had gone on not a quarter of an hour ago.

I shouted my orders, and flinging money right and left, I soon obtained a fleet pony, and was galloping recklessly over the broken lava. Throwing the reins over the pony's head I presently jumped off, and ran up the little narrow path to the funicular wire-laid railway that takes passengers up the steep cone to the crater.

"Just gone on, sir," said a Cook's official, in answer to my question. "But I must follow at once," I said excitedly, hurrying toward the little shed.

The man stopped me. "We don't take single passengers," he answered.

"I will and must go alone," I said. "I'll buy the car, and the railway, and you, and the mountain, if necessary, but go I will. How much do you want to take me alone?"

"One hundred francs," he answered impatiently, little thinking that I would agree to the bargain.

"Done!" I replied. In astonishment he counted out the notes which he handed him, and hurried at once into the shed. Here he rang an electric bell to have the car at the top started back, and, getting into the empty car, I began to ascend—up, and up, and up. Soon I passed the empty car returning. How slowly we moved! My mouth was parched and dry, and I was in a fever of excitement. The smoke from the crater was close above me in great wreaths. At last we reached the top. I leaped out, and, without waiting for a guide, made my way past, and rushed up to the active cone, slipping in the shifting, loose, gritty soil. When I reached the top a gale was blowing, and the scenery below, with the Bay and Naples and Sorrento, lay before me the most magnificent panorama in the world. I had no time to glance at it, but hurried forward, past crags of hot rock, from which steam and sulphur were escaping. The wind was taking the huge volume of smoke over to the farther side of the crater, and I could just catch sight of two figures as the smoke cleared for a moment. The figures were those of Fietta and the boy. They were evidently making a detour of the crater, and had entered the smoking I heard a guide behind shout something to me in Italian, but I took no notice, and plunged at once into the blinding, suffocating smoke that came belching forth from the crater.

I was now close behind Fietta and the boy. They held their handkerchiefs up to their faces to keep off the choking sulphurous fumes, and had evidently not seen me. Their guide was ahead of them. Fietta was walking slowly; he was farthest away from the crater's mouth. The boy's hand was within his; the boy was nearest to the yawning gulf. A hot and choking blast of smoke blinded me for a moment, and hid the pair from view; the next instant it passed. I saw Fietta suddenly turn, seize the boy, and push him towards the edge. Through the rumbling thunder that came from below I heard a sharp cry of terror, and, bounding forward I just caught the lad as he reeled, and hurled him away into safety.

With a yell of baffled rage Fietta dashed through the smoke and flung himself upon me. I moved nimbly aside, and the doctor, carried on by the impetus of his rush, missed his footing in the crumbling ashes and fell headlong down through the reeking smoke and steam into the fathomless, seething caldron below.

What followed may be told in a few words. That evening I sailed for Malta with the boy. Dr. Benson administered the antitoxin in time, and the child's life was saved. Within a fortnight I brought him back to his mother.

It was reported that Dr. Fietta had gone mad at the edge of the crater and in an excess of maniacal fury had first tried to destroy the boy and then flung himself in. I kept my secret.

CALIFORNIA.

Second Annual Excursion—Elks' Special Train.

Salt Lake lodge No. 55 has arranged for the only special train to Los Angeles this winter. Leaves Feb. 9, via Salt Lake Route. Thirty days of fun and sight-seeing. Write for program of side trips, receptions and free doings for thirty days of fun and sight-seeing. A. W. Raymond, secretary Elks' club, Salt Lake.

POSITIVELY THE LAST AND GREATEST WEEK OF

OUR GREAT SEMI-ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE

OF ALL WINTER GARMENTS AND FABRICS BEGINS MONDAY WITH A VIM AND SNAP THAT WILL ECLIPSE THE PAST WEEK'S RECORD. ALL ODDS AND ENDS, STRICTLY DESIRABLE, BUT BROKEN IN ASSORTMENTS, NOW PRACTICALLY GIVEN AWAY.

COATS, SUITS, FURS, WAISTS, ETC., MARKED LOWER THAN EVER BEFORE

AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE GREAT SELLING EVENTS WE ANNOUNCE A MOST REMARKABLE

Stirring Half-Price Sale of New Embroideries; A Cut-Price Introductory Sale of New White Petticoats; A Sale of Sample Belts Below Half Price. And many other substantial money-saving values that will repay you for investigation

Two Big Clearance Sale Values

IN DRESS GOODS

HANDSOME RANGE OF FANCY MIXED SUITINGS, CHECKED AND PLAIN FABRICS, BIG RANGE OF COLORINGS IN THIS LOT, ALL MOST DESIRABLE OF THIS SEASON'S MATERIALS. VALUES UP TO 90c, NOW PRICED AT PER YARD—

48c

75c

EXCELLENT QUALITY. ALL WOOL SERGES, PANAMAS, BATISTES, MOHAIRS AND FANCY MIXED NOVELTY SUITINGS IN EXQUISITE RANGE OF DESIRABLE COLORS AND COMBINATIONS. VALUES UP TO \$1.25 NOW PRICED AT PER YARD—



Immense Clearance Sale Values

IN DESIRABLE SILKS

White and colored Habutai silks, suitable for linings, corset covers, etc.; 20 inch wide, 25c
White and black Habutai silks, 27 inches wide, excellent 65c values, now per yard 49c
Up to 1.50 fancy silks, for shirt waists, suits, etc., good patterns and suitable for early spring and summer wear, in this sale, your choice at per yard 69c
\$1.15 grade black heavy rustling waterproof Taffeta, 27 inches wide, very desirable for suits, coats, dresses and separate skirts, fully guaranteed quality, clearance price, per yard \$1.35

WONDERFUL BARGAINS IN STRICTLY

TAILORED GARMENTS COATS, SUITS, ETC. MARKED LOWER THAN EVER

THE MOST IMPORTANT SALE IN THE CITY IS IN PROGRESS IN OUR READY-TO-WEAR DEPARTMENT. THE NEWEST, "RETTIEST AND MOST DESIRABLE WEARABLES ARE GOING IN A HURRY, AND AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES. EVERY GARMENT UP TO THE MINUTE IN STYLE.

4 Ridiculous Prices Embrace Every Suit in House

ENTIRE STOCK OF OVER 300 LADIES' HANDSOME SUITS TO BE SACRIFICED REGARDLESS OF LOSS AND TO EFFECT A COMPLETE CLEARANCE WE HAVE DIVIDED THE ENTIRE STOCK INTO 4 LOTS. THIS RECKLESS SACRIFICE OF VALUES SHOULD PROVE TO BE THE GREATEST DRAWING CARD THIS DEPARTMENT HAS EVER PUT FORTH AND NO WOMAN IN SALT LAKE OR VICINITY SHOULD FAIL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SO SWEEPING A SACRIFICE. EVERY SUIT GOING AT LESS THAN THE PRICE OF THE MATERIAL ALONE. READ ON, THEN COME AND EXAMINE THE WONDERFUL VALUES TO BE FOUND HERE FOR YOUR CHOOSING THIS WEEK.

ALL SUITS that sold up to \$22.50 now priced at \$7.50	ALL SUITS that sold up to \$32.50 now priced at \$11.50	ALL SUITS that sold up to \$45.00 now priced at \$16.50	ALL SUITS that sold up to \$62.50 now priced at \$24.50
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THESE SUITS COME IN ALL THE NEWEST MATERIALS, SUCH AS PANAMA, VOILES, BROADCLOTHS, FANCY MIXTURES, NOVELTY CHECKS, IMPORTED DOKSKIN, TAFFETA SILK AND FANCY NOVELTIES. STYLES OF JACKETS ARE VERY LATEST (THE SAME AS WILL BE IN DEMAND FOR EARLY SPRING). ETONS, SHORT, NOBBY HIP LENGTHS, LOOSE OR TIGHT FITTING STYLES, ETC., AND THE SKIRTS ARE ALL IN THE DESIRABLE PLEATED EFFECTS, ALL COLORS, ALL SIZES FOR LADIES AND MISSES.

3 Wonderful Prices on Ladies' Coats

\$13.00 Black Coats for \$5.00

Cheviot 3-length, velvet piped, 1 satin lined.

\$18.00 Checked and Plaid Coats—\$8.75

Choice of many styles in checks, plaids and mixtures, 3-length.

\$21.00 Black Coat—\$10.50

Black Kersey, satin lined throughout, 3-length, best value ever offered.

Big Values in FUR SCARFS

VALUES UP TO \$4.50, FUR SCARFS \$1.85

Blended German Mink, black and brown. Natural River Mink and Pitch fur, all with 6 cluster tails and chain fastener. VALUES UP TO \$15.00, FUR SCARFS, \$4.50.

2-yard long length, brown French Coney. Sable and Isabella Australian Opossum; some of these are also 2-yard length throw scarf style; also limited number of fox scarfs go at this price. VALUES \$15.00, FUR SCARFS, \$6.50.

Choice of beautiful high grade furs at this low price, such as fox, blended river mink, Australian Opossum, all shades; come in all late styles in short, medium and long lengths.

Three Great Lots of Ladies' Waists

\$3.95 Silk Waists—\$1.95

Extra quality taffeta navy and black, full fronts, tucked and pleated.

\$1.50 Mere Cotton Waists, 85c

Dainty colored stripes and neat patterns, tucked fronts, all sizes.

Wool Waists up to \$7.50—Choice \$2.95

Beautiful assortment of white and plain colored Nun's Vellings; also pretty plaids and novelty stripes.

Sacrifice of Sample Blankets

IN THIS SALE BELOW COST!

BIG VARIETY OF SAMPLE BLANKETS IN GRAY, RED, VIOLET, TAN, WHITE, FANCY PLAIDS, ETC. IN THE VARIOUS GRADES OF COTTON, HALF WOOL, CALIFORNIA AND ALL WOOL. EASTERN BLANKETS, SLIGHTLY SOILED FROM BEING HANDLED, BUT ABSOLUTELY PERFECT IN EVERY OTHER RESPECT. TAKE YOUR PICK AND PICK THE BEST OF THEM. A GREAT SNAP. DON'T MISS IT.

CLEARANCE PRICES ON WARM Comforts.

\$2.00 Silkoline covered comforts, cut to \$1.45

\$2.25 Silkoline covered comforts, cut to \$1.75

\$2.75 and \$3.00 fine Silkoline covered comforts, filled with pure cotton, cut to \$2.00

Big Clearance Sale of \$2.50 Wrist Bags \$1.75

HANDSOME ALL LEATHER WRIST BAGS IN ONE OF THE NEWEST SHAPES, FULL MOIRE LINING WITH INSIDE FITTINGS, COVERED FRAMES AND WELL RIVETED, COME IN BLACK AND BROWN SEAL GRAIN OR MOROCCO LEATHER.

In Addition to Our Winter Clearance Sales, We Offer the Greatest Early Values in New Spring

LACES AND EMBROIDERIES



THE PRETTIEST PATTERNS EVER PRESENTED IN SALT LAKE. THOUSANDS OF YARDS OF FINEST EMBROIDERIES, INSERTIONS, EDGES, SKIRT FLUNCINGS, LACES, LACE GALLOONS, LACE ALL-OVERS, ETC., ETC. A TREMENDOUS PURCHASE FROM A RETIRING NEW YORK IMPORTER AT

50c ON THE DOLLAR!

EMBROIDERY EDGINGS FROM 3c Per Yard and Up.

EMBROIDERY INSERTIONS FROM 7 1/2c Per Yard and Up.

EMBROIDERIES IN 2 WIDTHS WITH INSERTIONS TO MATCH FROM 9c Per Yard and Up.

SKIRT FLUNCINGS, 18 to 27 INCHES WIDE FROM 69c Per Yard and Up.

Cotton Torchon laces up to 6 inches wide, with insertions to match, worth up to 10c per yard 5c

German Linen Torchon laces, excellent patterns up to 6 inches wide, with insertions to match; regular 12 1/2c per yard 6c

Lace insertions, lace Galloons, lace Bands, lace Medallions, etc., in rich Baby Irish and Batiste combinations, all worth double and priced in this sale from per yard 25c & Up

Handsome all-over laces, exquisite Baby Irish and Batiste novelties, all at half price, beginning at per yard 75c & Up

Don't fail to attend this Half-Price Embroidery and Lace Sale if you contemplate early Spring sewing and wish to make your money do double duty.

Wonderful Values in White Lingerie Petticoats

NEW STOCK, NEW PATTERNS, ALL FULL LENGTHS AND EXCELLENTLY MADE THROUGHOUT OF BEST QUALITY MATERIALS AND EMBROIDERIES, LACES, ETC. THE BEST MANUFACTURERS IN THE EAST HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR BEST STYLES TO THIS COLLECTION AND AS AN INDUCEMENT TO EARLY PURCHASEMENT WE MENTION THE FOLLOWING GREAT BARGAIN VALUES.

Regular \$1.00 embroidered trimmed petticoats 69c

Regular \$1.25 embroidered trimmed and tucked petticoats 85c

embroidery trimmed large ruffled petticoats 98c

Regular \$2.25 embroidery and lace petticoats \$1.50

Regular \$2.50 embroidery and lace trimmed petticoats \$1.85

500 Sample Belts

Silk, Leather, Elastic, Velvet and Beaded Novelties go on Sale Monday at

LESS THAN HALF PRICE.

THIS IMMENSE LOT OF SAMPLE BELTS, JUST RECEIVED AND CONTAINS ALL THE VERY LATEST CREATIONS AND HIGH CLASS NOVELTIES IN ALL THE DESIRABLE MATERIALS, IN ALL THE BEST COLORINGS, FROM ONE OF THE FOREMOST BELT MANUFACTURERS IN NEW YORK CITY, ALL GO ON SALE MONDAY AT LESS THAN THE COST OF MANUFACTURE.

DON'T FAIL TO EXAMINE THIS UNUSUAL BARGAIN OFFERING.

BELTS THAT SOLD UP TO 65c EACH, NOW PRICED AT 25c

BELTS THAT SOLD UP TO \$1.25 EACH, NOW GOING AT 50c

BELTS THAT SOLD UP TO \$2.00 EACH, NOW GOING AT 69c

Grandest Values in Housekeeping and Table Linens Ever Offered to Salt Lake Housekeepers

7 1/2c Irish Huckaback, full bleached, roller toweling, 5c

8 1/2c fringed Honeycomb Towels, each 5c

10c hemmed colored border huck towels, each 7 1/2c

15c extra size hemmed huck towels, hemstitched huck towels, fringed huck towels, unbleached bath towels, each 10c

22c colored border huck towels and bleached bath towels, each 15c

42x36 and 46x36 hemmed pillow cases, regular 15c cases, each 10c

46x36 and 42x36 hemmed cases, extra good 17c values, each 12 1/2c

42x36 hemmed and hemstitched cases, regular 22c grades, each 15c

Size 72x90 home-made sheets, full deep hems, sale price 45c

Size 81x90 linen finished sheets, ready for use 59c

Size 81x90 fine quality muslin sheets, sale price 69c

\$1.50 Marseilles white bed-spreads, cut to \$1.25

\$1.85 large size white quilts, extra fine quality and good patterns, \$1.39

35c bleached and cream table damask, 34 inches wide, cut to per yard 25c

56 inches cream table damask, loom dice pattern, regular 60c grade, cut to 45c

56-inch bleached table linen, good patterns, regular 56c grade, cut to 48c

60-inch cream table damask; extra good quality for wear and durability; regular 76c grade, cut to 60c

66-inch bleached Irish damask table linen; regular 96c grade, cut to 75c

72-inch full bleached Irish damask; regular 11.25 grade, cut to 98c

Loomdice napkins, all hemmed ready for use, per dozen 49c

18-inch all linen damask napkins, \$1.25 grade, per doz \$1.00

22-inch linen napkins, full bleached Irish manufacture, \$1.00 grade; per dozen \$1.25

Final Clearance of All CURTAINS AND DRAPERIES

12 1/2c and 16c figured Silkolines, per yard 10c

16c grade Curtain Swisses, per yard 10c

20c Figured Art Damasks, per yard 15c

30-yard white Nottingham Lace Curtains, per pair 35c

\$1.50 Nottingham Lace Curtains, 2 yards long, per pair 98c

\$2.75 Nottingham Lace Curtains, fine grade and exquisite designs, full 3 1/2 yards long, per pair \$1.69

1-yard Battensberg Lace Curtains, extra qualities, per pair \$2.25

\$6.75 Battensberg Lace Curtains, extra qualities, per pair \$3.95

8-4 Fringed Tapestry Table Covers, big variety of colors; \$1.75 grades \$1.00

\$3.00 full fringed Tapestry Couch Covers, full 60 inches wide and full length, for \$2.25

Outing Flannels

Must Be Cleared Out.

EVERYTHING DESIRED IN BEST GRADES OF OUTING FLANNEL AND FLANNELLETTES, LIGHT, MEDIUM AND DARK, CHECKS, PLAIDS, STRIPES, ETC., TO BE FOUND IN OUR MATCHLESS COLLECTION, FOR THIS WEEK THEY GO AS FOLLOWS:

\$1-3c grade outings for per yard 63 1/2c

10c grade cream outings for per yard 8 1/2c

12c grade outings for per yard 9c

16c grade outings for per yard 10c

17c grade flannellettes for per yard 12 1/2c

22c grade swansdowns for per yard 15c

Timely Price-Cuts on All Hosiery and Underwear

Men's Worsted Socks, special 12 1/2c

Men's Fine Cashmere Half Hose 20c

Ladies' Fleece Lined Hose 15c

Ladies' Worsted Hose 25c

Ladies' Fine Cashmere Hose, Merino heel and toe 29c

Children's 20c Fleece Lined Hose, per pair 15c

35c Children's Cashmere hose, per pair 20c

Ladies' Fleece lined Vests and Pants 25c

Ladies' Fleece lined Union Suits 50c

Ladies' Heavy Fleece Vests and Pants 40c

Boys' Heavy Fleece Lined Vests and Pants 33c

Children's Fleece Union Suits 19c